



UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER  
7701 TAMPA POINT BOULEVARD  
MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 33621-5323

OCT 25 2012

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter of October 18, 2012 regarding the security environment prior to the attack on the United States Consulate in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) defers to the Geographic Combatant Commander and the Theater Special Operations Commander for operational action and mission execution within their geographic areas of responsibility.

Below are the answers to your specific questions:

(1) Given the steadily deteriorating threat environment in Libya prior to the Benghazi attack, at any time prior to September 11, 2012 did you or anyone in your command advise, formally or informally, that the Department of State, or any other Agency:

- a. take action to increase security for U.S. personnel in Libya, or
- b. request increased security for U.S. personnel in Libya? **No**, USSOCOM never advised anyone to take additional actions in Libya – that would be the purview of United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM). USSOCOM does not make independent recommendations for any additional forces – USSOCOM is positioned to support requests that would come from USAFRICOM.

(2) At any time prior to September 11, 2012, did you or anyone in your command recommend deployment of additional U.S. military forces to Libya due to the threat environment? **No**

(3) To your knowledge, at any time prior to September 11, 2012, did anyone in your chain of command make such recommendation(s)? **No**

(4) To your knowledge, has the Department of State or any other federal agency requested additional U.S. military forces to augment security for U.S. personnel in Libya? **No**, no additional special operations forces were requested.

USSOCOM did not receive any request from USAFRICOM for additional forces. Additionally, I do not know if the DoS or any other federal agency requested additional resources prior to the September 11, 2012 attack in Benghazi.

SOCC

SUBJECT: Response to Chairman's Request for Information (RFIs) regarding Libya.

It is my desire that these answers fully address your inquiry. We share your concern for the safety and security of all United States citizens overseas.

Thank you for your continued support to Special Operations and our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. McRaven', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

WILLIAM H. McRAVEN  
Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Commander

Copy Furnished:  
The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515